

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-37 (cancelled).

Claim 38 (new). A preformed porous ceramic carrier comprising an interconnected skeleton having pores the majority of which are in the range of from about 20 to about 800 micron, the carrier having a density of less than about 40% theoretical, the pores containing a second material deposited therein, the rate of release of the second material from the carrier being controlled.

Claim 39 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the skeleton is made up of scaffolding and struts.

Claim 40 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the skeleton has average pore sizes in the range of 20 to 800 micron.

Claim 41 (new). A carrier according to Claim 40, wherein the average pore size is in the range of 60 to 800 micron.

Claim 42 (new). A carrier according to Claim 41, wherein the micropores were formed by sintering a precursor of the carrier under conditions which were below those required for full sintering.

43 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the skeleton is formed of a biocompatible material.

44 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the density ranges from about 10% to about 30% of theoretical density.

45 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the pores contain any one or more of:- growth factors; antibiotics; vitamins; proteins; hormones; a chemotherapy agent; or a radio opacifying agent, or the like.

46 (new). A carrier according to Claim 45, wherein the pores containing any or more of the following growth factors:

- a bone growth material
- FGF (fibroblast growth factor)
- IGF-I
- IGF-II
- PDGF (platelet derived growth factor)
- TGF-B (transforming growth factor)
- a bone forming or bone degrading cell.
- BMP-Z
- HGH
- concentrations of human derived growth factors

47 (new). A carrier according to Claim 45, wherein the chemotherapy agent is Cisplatin.

48 (new). A carrier according to Claim 45, wherein the radio opacifying agent is strontium -67 or samarium -153.

49 (new). A carrier according to Claim 45, wherein the agent is MTX.

50 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the pores contain one or more of Werner-type co-ordination complexes; macrocyclic complexes; metallocenes and sandwich complexes and organometallics.

51 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the surface of the pores has been modified to control release of the second material.

52 (new). A carrier according to Claim 51, wherein the surface of the pores has been modified by treatment with acid or alkali or plasma or chemical vapour deposition.

53 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the pores contain the second material in a degradable support, e.g. a biodegradable support.

54 (new). A carrier according to Claim 53, wherein the biodegradable support is a collagen or polymer.

55 (new). A carrier according to Claim 53, wherein the support is PCPP.SA, PCC, CPP.SA, FAD-SAPTMC, PAA.

56 (new). A carrier according to Claim 53, wherein the pores contain layers of second material and biodegradable support, each layer being different from its neighbour or neighbours.

57 (new). A carrier according to Claim 53, wherein the pores contain material in layers, arranged as alternating layers of agent-free layer and of agent-containing layers or by the concentration of agent across different layers of collagen or polymer.

58 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the carrier has a degree of reticulation high enough to reduce the pressure gradient generated in infiltration of the second material into the pores of the carrier.

59 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the second material is introduced into the pores by one or more of a centrifugation, immersion, vacuum impregnation or freeze drying technique.

60 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the exterior surface thereof has been coated with a biodegradable polymer containing a drug.

61 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the skeleton of the ceramic carrier is formed from a metal or non-metal oxide or the like.

62 (new). A carrier according to Claim 61, wherein the ceramic skeleton is partially or fully resorbable.

63 (new). A carrier according to Claim 62, wherein the skeleton is formed of calcium phosphate hydroxyapatite.

64 (new). A preformed porous ceramic carrier comprising an interconnected skeleton having pores the majority of which are in the range of from about 20 to about 1000 micron, the carrier having a density of less than about 40% theoretical, the pores containing MTX, the rate of release of the MTX from the pores being controlled.

65 (new). A carrier according to Claim 64, wherein the MTX has been loaded into the pores by centrifugation and/or freeze drying.

66 (new). A preformed ceramic carrier comprising an interconnected skeleton having pores the majority of which are in the range of from about 20 to about 1000 micron, the carrier having a density of less than about 40% theoretical, the pores containing  $\text{Fe}(\text{phen})_3[\text{ClO}_4]_2$  the rate of release of the  $\text{Fe}(\text{phen})_3[\text{ClO}_4]_2$  being controlled.

67 (new). A carrier according to Claim 66, wherein the  $\text{Fe}(\text{phen})_3[\text{ClO}_4]_2$  has been loaded into the pores by vacuum impregnation.

68 (new). A preformed porous ceramic carrier comprising an interconnected skeleton having pores the majority of which are in the range of from about 20 to about 1000 micron, the carrier having a density of less than about 40% theoretical, the pores containing  $\text{Fe}(\text{phen})_3[\text{ClO}_4]_2$  and a glycolide, the rate of release of  $\text{Fe}(\text{phen})_3[\text{ClO}_4]_2$ .

69 (new). A preformed porous ceramic carrier comprising an interconnected skeleton having pores the majority of which are in the range of from about 20 to about 1000 micron, the carrier having a density of less than about 40% theoretical, the pores containing Cisplatin, the rate of release of the Cisplatin being controlled.

70 (new). A preformed porous ceramic carrier comprising an interconnected skeleton having pores the majority of which are in the range of from about 20 to about 1000 micron, the carrier having a density of less than about 40% theoretical, the pores containing Cisplatin and a glycolide, the rate of release of the Cisplatin and a glycolide being controlled.

71 (new). A preformed porous ceramic comprising an interconnected skeleton having pores the majority of which are in the range of from about 20 to about 1000 micron, the carrier having a density of less than about 40% theoretical, the pores containing prednisolone, the rate of release of the prednisolone being controlled.

72 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, shaped for orthopaedic, maxillo-facial, or cranio-facial replacement.

73 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, shaped for location at an intramuscular site, interperitoneal site, subcutaneous site, central nervous system or ocular site.

74 (new). A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the pores contain a general chemical or resin or petroleum derivative or explosives.--